

from 6th millennium B.C. to 14th century A.D. have come to light in "Geesukonda" village near Warangal in Andhra Pradesh and that they have great historical significance;

(b) if so, whether any special measures have been taken by Government to preserve the great heritage; and

(c) if not, what measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The Department of Archaeology and Museums, Andhra Pradesh, has conducted excavation at Geesukonda and reported to have found a coin of the Satavahana period, a crystal bead, animal and human figurines made of clay, potsherds of red ware polished and red ware and iron objects belonging to the 1st-2nd century A.D. In addition, Iron Age burials datable to 6th century B.C. and a Siva temple datable to the 12th-13th century A.D. also exist in the locality.

(b) and (c) The Department of Archaeology and Museums, Andhra Pradesh, has initiated measures to declare the site as a protected monument as per the Andhra Pradesh Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1960.

Excavation of Archaeological site in Eastern States

81. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have excavated any archaeological site in Eastern States during the last three years;

(b) whether any of those sites is in Orissa;

(c) what are the sites in other Eastern States excavated during that period;

(d) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has published any report on that; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Archaeological Survey of India has conducted excavations in the following States at the sites mentioned against each:

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| 1. Orissa | : | Udaigiri, District Jajpur; |
| 2. Bihar | : | (i) Kesariya, District East Champaran
(ii) Rajgir, District Nalanda
(iii) Kolhua, District Muzafferpur |
| 3. Assam | : | Sri Surya Pahar, District Goalpara |
| 4. Tripura | : | (i) Thakurani Tila, Paschim Pillak, District South Tripura
(ii) Shyam Sunder Tila, Paschim Pillak, District South Tripura |
| 5. West Bengal | : | (i) Chandraketugarh District North-24, Paraganas
(ii) Rajpat Khalisa, Gosanimari village, District Cooch Behar |

(d) and (e) In respect of Kolhua, the excavation concluded in 1998-99 and report thereof has not been published. In the remaining cases the excavations have not been concluded.

Maintenance of tourist/pilgrimage spots

†82. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that splendour of various tourist/pilgrimage spots in the country declined due to the consumer tourism

Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.